

REMARKS

Claims 19-32 are pending in this application. For purposes of expedition, claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 19-32 have been newly added in accordance with current Office policy, to define Applicants' disclosed invention relative to newly cited prior art, including Best et al., H1221 and Bajorek et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,264,975, and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2d ¶, as being indefinite for reason stated on page 2 of the Office Action (Paper No. 11). As discussed, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of allowance of newly prepared claims 19-32.

Claims 1-12 and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Best et al., H1221 for reasons stated on pages 2-9 of the Office Action (Paper No. 11). Actually, Best H1221 does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), since Applicants' claimed priority date of November 28, 1990 predates both the filing date and the publication date of Best H1221. Nevertheless, for purposes of expedition, claims 1-12 and 14-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of allowance of claims 19-32 in order to render the rejection moot.

Lastly, claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Best et al., H1221 in view of Bajorek et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,264,975 for reasons stated on page 10 of the Office Action (Paper No. 11). Again, for reasons discussed, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of allowance of claims 19-32 in order to render the rejection moot.

Claims 19-28 have been newly added to alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention over the prior art of record. These claims are believed to be allowable over Best et al., H1221 and Bajorek et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,264,975. For example, new claims 19-32 relate to vibration absorbing in a socket, as described on page 33, embodiment 10, FIGs. 15 and 16 of Applicants' original specification.

Specifically, base claim 19 defines a disk drive unit comprising "a disk drive; a socket for housing said disk drive; a first vibration absorbing member positioned between an inner upper side of said socket and said disk drive; and a second vibration absorbing member positioned between an inner lower side of said socket and said disk drive."

Likewise, base claim 22 defines a disk drive unit comprising: "a disk drive; a socket for housing said disk drive; a first vibration absorbing member; and a second vibration absorbing member; wherein said disk drive is sandwiched by said first vibration absorbing member and said second vibration absorbing member inside said socket."

Claims 19-32 provide a construction wherein the external vibration is not easily transmitted to a disk. With this construction, the present invention can achieve an effect that the vibration to the disk is absorbed by the absorbing member provided between the socket and the disk.

In contrast to Applicants' newly added claims 19-28, Best, H1221, discloses a high speed small diameter disk storage system, as shown in FIG. 1, in which a plurality of disk drive devices utilize disks arranged in a four drive system to match the space geometry of the traditional half-high flexible disk drive used in PC. The vibration absorber is shock mount grommets 239 formed between the device device

(DASD) 230 and board (card) 231 to mechanically separate the DASD 230 from the board 231 so as to accommodate a large number of electrical contacts between the DASD 230 and the board (See Best, column 22, line 11-20). According to Best H1221, the purpose is to mechanically separate the DASD 230 from the card 231 rather than to prevent transmission of external vibrations to the disk.

In either Best H1221 or Bajorek '975, there is no disclosure of the arrangement of a socket used to house a disk drive in combination with a first vibration absorbing member and a second vibration absorbing member, in which the disk drive is sandwiched by the first vibration absorbing member and the second vibration absorbing member inside the socket, as shown in FIGs. 15-16 and defined in Applicants' claims 19-32. No fee is incurred by the addition of claims 19-32.

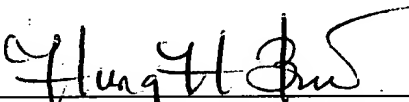
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 566.30812VC2), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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